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**Americas****Suspected Leftist Rebels Bomb Key Colombian Pipeline**

VOA News

07 Feb 2003, 03:39 UTC



Colombian officials say suspected leftist rebels have bombed a key pipeline in a troubled northern province.

Authorities said Thursday the attack in Arauca occurred late Wednesday. Workers with the Cano Limon pipeline say the explosion caused oil to rush out, causing unknown environmental damage.

Seventy U.S. special forces are in Arauca to help train Colombian forces in protecting the pipeline, which is operated by the U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum.

Authorities say leftist rebels attacked the pipeline in the lawless province 170 times in 2001.

*Some information for this report provided by AP and AFP.*

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